

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00238 140952Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /096 W  
-----141013Z 039974 /22

R 140910Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 746  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN  
CINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0238

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, SS, MR, MO  
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FORCES IN MAURITANIA

REF: DAO RABAT IR6 865 005 77 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORT (REFTEL) OF PRESENCE IN MAURITANIA  
OF MOROCCAN FORCE OF FOUR INFANTRY BATTALIONS AND SUPPORTING  
ARTILLERY AND ARMOR OPERATING SINCE JAN 3 WITH MAURITANIAN  
FORCES IN EFFORT OT SWEEP BIR MOGHREIN AREA OF POLISARIO GUERRILLAS.  
OUR REPORT INDICATES, HOWEVER, THE THIS MOROCCAN FORCE IS TO  
RETURN TO MOROCCAN PORTION OF SAHARA AFTER COMPLETION OF OPERATION,  
CONTRARY TO VIEW OF FRENCH AND SPANISH ATTACHES IN NOUAKCHOTT THAT  
MOROCCANS TO BE ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY TO BIR MOGHREIN. IN THIS  
CONNECTION, A SMALLER MOROCCAN CONTINGENT, NUMBERING UNDER 250  
TROOPS, HAS BEEN IN BIR MOGHREIN FOR APPROXIMATELY A YEAR.

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2. COMMENT: DISPATCH OF OVER 1300 MOROCCAN TROOPS TO NORTHERN  
MAURITANIA REFLECTS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOM VIEWS NEED TO  
TAKE FIRM MEASURES AGAINST CONTINUING POLISARIO PRESSURE ON  
MAURITANIA. OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE LEADS US TO BELIEVE  
THAT THE BIR MOGHREIN OPERATION IS PART OF A LARGER SERIES OF  
ANTI-POLISARIO OPERATIONS IN THE SAHARA AND NORTHERN MAURITANIA.  
WE WOULD EXPECT MOROCCAN TROOPS TO REMAIN IN BIR MOGHREIN LONG

ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT POLISARIO THREAT, BUT QUESTION  
WHETHER SUCH A LARGE FORCE WILL STAY ON IN SPARSELY SETTLED AREA  
INDEFINITELY, AS SUGGESTED BY FRENCH AND SPANISH ATTACHES IN  
NOUAKCHOTT. IT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE MORE EFFICIENT FOR SMALLER,  
MORE MOBILE MOROCCAN UNITS TO FOLLOW UP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIANS  
ONCE MAIN SWEEP COMPLETED.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977RABAT00238  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3596000  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOROCCAN FORCES IN MAURITANIA  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, SS, MR, MO, POLISARIO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/253c71d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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